

identity was 'de-recognized'. The Sikhs were constitutionally 'exterminated'. Because of this blatant injustice, the Sikhs, elected representatives—Sardar Hukam Singh, MP; Sardar Bhupinder Singh Maan, MP; and Sardar Kapur Singh, ICS, MP, MLA and National Professor of Sikhism—'Rejected' the Indian Constitution of 1950 and its Article 25, in its draft and final forms, every time it was put to vote in the Indian parliament—in 1948, on 26th November, 1949, in 1950 and on 6th September, 1966.

Honourable President, the question is why we, the Sikh citizens of the United States and Canada, of Europe, Far East, and other continents should need a 'Visa' or the permission of the predominantly Hindu-Brahmin administration. Especially after the June, 1984 assault on Darbar Sahib Complex—which is the Sikh Vatican—and an 'undeclared' war on the Sikhs ever since. This undeclared war has taken a heavy toll. The "Operation Bluestar" of June, 1984 was blessed by the government of a so-called 'democratic' state. The desecration of their holy places and wanton massacre of the Sikhs was carried out for no reason other than their demanding the right of self-determination honouring the pledges made to the Sikhs by Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. More than 250,000 innocent Sikh (majority of whom were infants, children, youth, females and the elderly have been killed by Indian security forces. This is the hallmark of a fascist oligarchy, not a democracy.

In recent months, the arrests of Simranjit Singh Mann, Chief of Akali Dal Amritsar, Mann's vice president, Daljit Singh Dittu and the arrest warrants of an Editor and academic, Dr Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, provide further evidence that repression of the Sikhs continues even in the Sikh majority state of the Punjab, the administration of which is headed by a Sikh, Prakash Badal. The former two are being tried, along with 30 other Sikhs, on charges of 'treason'. Treason against who? How does the Indian Constitution apply to the Sikhs when the Sikhs' elected representatives 'rejected' it repeatedly?

Mr. President, there is great anxiety among the Sikhs in Diaspora over the denial of their religious and political rights and repression of dissent. If India is not restrained by the international community and its leader—the USA—peace and security in the whole region would be undermined. In retrospect and historically, India was never a country; it was an empire (the British Empire). In its belly there are many peoples with legitimate right to self-determination—in Kashmir (mainly Muslim) in the Punjab (mainly Sikhs) in the states of Assam (mainly Christian) who are not a part of the Indian nation. The issues relating to the native majority—the children of lesser gods—encompass a huge section of humanity, as many as 700 million people. All this cannot be swept under the carpet or buried under slogans like 'India Shining'. The Sikhs want their own sovereign state—as they had been (1799 to 14th March, 1849, under a Sikh monarch Ranjit Singh) before the British take over, as an "annexed" state, of the Punjab in 1849. Until then, we want unrestricted access to our holy places. No Sikh should need a visa to go to the Punjab. And peaceful dissent should not just be tolerated; it should be respected and honoured. Is dissent not the hall mark of democracy?

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

With regards,

Respectfully submitted,

AWATAR SINGH SEKHON.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GILLESPIE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church was established on August 4, 1907. The church's first meeting was held in a tent at the site where the church is today. Reverend F.M. Doewell was the first pastor called in September, 1907. He was one of only 15 pastors called to serve over this first 100 years.

On July 1, 1910, the membership began worship services in the basement of the new meeting house with Dr. M.D. Jeffries, President of Carson Newman College, preaching the first sermon in the new building.

On May 7, 1916, the church auditorium was completed and dedicated and a piano was approved and purchased later that same year for the church.

On January 7, 1917, the church voted to borrow money to pay the pastor's salary. The finance report at that time showed a balance of \$.16. Eight years later, the enrollment was 426 with an average attendance of 263 and the average Sunday offering was \$65.89.

On October 12, 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rose donated a pipe organ to the church in honor of their parents.

The original church building was destroyed by fire on January 22, 1961. Services were held in the new sanctuary on September 2, 1962, where they remain today.

I am proud to have such an outstanding Christian institution in my district.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary and may God bless this congregation in the years to come.

OHIO WILLOW WOOD CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF HELPING THE ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC INDUSTRY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ohio Willow Wood, a leader in the prosthetic and orthotic industry. Over the years, the family-owned company based in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, has provided products to help amputees live full and active lifestyles.

In 1907, Ohio Willow Wood was founded by William E. Arbogast, who personally experienced the challenges of living as an amputee from injuries he suffered in a railroad accident. His experience with poorly-fitting, uncomfortable and unreliable prosthetic products inspired him to establish Ohio Willow Wood.

Over the next century, the company that started out making it easier for prosthetists to obtain quality materials for their patients, became a global leader in designing and manu-

facturing lower limb prosthetic components. Through innovative research and development, the company has been responsible for several breakthroughs in the prosthetic industry. These include the first American-made "solid ankle, cushion heel" (SACH) foot, and the Alpha Liner, which is the first fabric-covered, gel interface system that improves the comfort and protection for prosthetic users. Ohio Willow Wood is also involved in research and development of new products and technology for the U.S. Army to use in its treatment of victims of lower extremity loss.

In addition to designing and manufacturing prosthetic products, Ohio Willow Wood develops Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and equipment for the orthotic and prosthetic community. The company also has global distribution partners and direct offices in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

While many aspects of Ohio Willow Wood have evolved and changed over the past 100 years, the company's commitment to the orthotic and prosthetic industry remains constant. Today, third and fourth generations of the Arbogast family are active in the daily operations of Ohio Willow Wood, standing by its promise to free the bodies and spirits of amputees.

Madam Speaker, I commend all of the employees at Ohio Willow Wood for reaching this milestone, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

H.R. 2900, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the passage of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (FDAAA). This critical piece of legislation reauthorizes the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) and provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with additional resources to further promote and protect the public health. The FDAAA reinforces and expands FDA's comprehensive authority in all aspects of drug regulation—including with respect to drug safety and labeling—and takes the nation's drug safety system, which is already the most rigorous, and makes it even stronger. I commend my colleagues and their dedicated staff on both sides of the aisle who worked tirelessly to ensure that this bill was completed in a bipartisan manner before the September 30, 2007 expiration of the existing PDUFA program.

The funds from PDUFA are used to allow FDA to hire additional staff to perform its critical drug review functions while maintaining the same exacting standards for safety and efficacy. Additional funding provided as part of FDAAA will allow the FDA to expand drug safety monitoring, hire additional staff for post-market surveillance, and modernize its information technology systems. Expanded resources will also enable FDA to hire additional employees to review broadcast drug advertisements prior to public dissemination, helping to ensure that benefits and risks of prescription drug products are clearly and accurately communicated to the public. The legislation creates strong incentives for companies to submit